

EXHIBIT B



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20201

Case No. 2018-00802-FOIA-OS

April 02, 2018

Mr. Austin R Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, N.W., Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is in response to your March 28, 2018, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Specifically, you requested the following:

Requesting all communications (including email messages, text messages, instant messages, letters, memoranda or any other communications) sent to or from personnel of the firm Hager Sharp, including all electronic mail messages to or from the hagersharp.com domain, between January 1, 2017, and the date your search is conducted.

This letter is to obtain clarification regarding the subject matter of your FOIA request. We are unable to ascertain from your request which particular agency records you wish to obtain.

The FOIA allows the public to request access to "reasonably described" existing agency records (subject to any applicable FOIA exemptions to disclosure). This means you must describe the category of records you are seeking or the actual document(s), and provide sufficient details to permit a search with reasonable effort, utilizing existing indices and search tools. Unfortunately, you have not described the records with enough specificity to allow us to continue with the processing of your request.

The HHS Office of the Secretary is unable to perform an adequate search for responsive records, because your request is too broad. HHS is comprised of 11 agencies and over 55,000 employees, including hundreds of component/program offices.

We need to have additional specificity regarding:

- Who within HHS (i.e. actual names and/or email addresses of HHS employees) you think may have communicated with personnel of the firm Hager Sharp? Is it about a senior department official or a Presidential Appointee with Senate Confirmation (PAS), a Presidential Appointee (PA), a Non-career SES, or any Schedule C employees?

At this time, we have placed your request in “tolled” status. Therefore, please clarify and describe the records you are seeking, by sending an email to Michael Bell, of my staff, at michael.bell@hhs.gov or calling him at 202-260-0793.

After you further advise us what records you are seeking, we can begin to process your FOIA request.

If you have not contacted our office within 15 business days from the date of this letter, your request will be administratively closed. Therefore, no action on your part is needed, if you no longer have a need for the records.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Marquis".

For

Michael S. Marquis
Director
FOI/Privacy Acts Division